

First United Methodist Church of Windsor  
*News From The Pews*  
March 2026

Christ is counting on us to *Know, Love, and Serve* God.

Our doors are open for all to join us in worship every Sunday at 10 am.

9:00a Adult Sunday School (Church Basement)  
10:00a Worship Service (in-person and online)  
10:10a Children's Church  
11:00a Fellowship Hour (Fellowship Hall)

## Pastor's Pen



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

Over the last few weeks, I've been doing something I didn't expect to be as emotional as it has been: Clearing out the bookshelves in my office.

Some books I've kept simply because I've always had them. Some because they were gifts. Some because I thought I *should* read them someday. But Lent has a way of inviting us to simplify not just our schedules, but our souls. So, I've been sorting, donating, and making space... leaving behind only the books that still speak to me, still challenge me, still feel like companions on the journey of faith.

And interestingly enough, the three books that rose to the top this Lent aren't all "church books." But each one, in its own way, has been helping me listen more closely for God.

Here are three books I'm reading this season: one for the mind, one for the heart, and one for the places in us that still ache with regret and hope.

*Mere Christianity* by the Christian author C.S. Lewis. There's a reason this book has stayed on so many shelves for so many decades. Lewis has a gift for cutting through noise and getting back to the center of what Christians believe: not in a shallow way, but in a steady and grounding way.

Lent is a season for returning. Returning to prayer. Returning to worship. Returning to repentance. Returning to Jesus. And *Mere Christianity* is helping me do that.

It doesn't try to impress. It doesn't try to win arguments. It simply reminds me that the Christian faith is not built on trends, politics, or personality. It's built on Christ. And that's exactly what I need this time of year.

Inspired by Rachel Held Evans who had a rare gift: she helped people stay in the story. For many, she became a voice of honesty and courage, especially for those who love Jesus but have also wrestled with the church, with scripture, with grief, or with questions that don't have easy answers.

And Lent, if we let it, is honest. Lent is not about pretending we have it all together. Lent is the season that reminds us we are dust... and that are also deeply loved.

Her work continues to remind me that faith isn't about having everything perfectly figured out. Faith is about continuing to walk with Jesus even when the road is complicated. Even when we feel tired. Even when we're carrying those heavy questions about life.

*Continued on the next page...*

## Pastor's Pen Continued

She helps me remember something that feels very Wesleyan at its core: God's grace meets us before we are ready, before we are polished, and before we are certain

*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. This may seem like an unexpected Lenten read, but it has become one of the most spiritually resonant novels I've encountered in a long time. *The Midnight Library* explores a woman standing in the space between life and death, given the chance to "try on" different versions of her life: lives shaped by choices she didn't make, roads she didn't take, and relationships she didn't pursue.

At first glance, it's a book about regret. But underneath, it's a book about something even deeper: the ache we carry when we wonder if our life could have been different... and the quiet grace of realizing that God meets us in the life we actually have.

That's a deeply Lenten theme because Lent invites us to face the truth: not just about our sins, but about our sadness, our disappointments, our longing, and our losses. It invites us to stop running from the "what ifs," and instead bring our whole selves to the mercy of God because that is where resurrection begins.

If you're looking for a Lenten practice, consider something simple: read a few pages each day. Not to check a box. Not to impress anyone. But to make room for Christ in your life this Lenten season.

Sometimes a few pages can become a prayer. Sometimes a story can open a door in the heart. Sometimes an old book can remind us who we are. And after all, isn't that what lent is really all about?

Blessings on your journey this Lenten Season.

Pastor Phil

## March Scriptures & Sermons

Hands in Praise will be performing on March 1st during service. Hands in Praise is an American Sign Language Choir sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church.



*March*  
Scriptures & Sermons

- March 1st: John 13:1-17  
*"Follow My Example, Please"*
- March 8<sup>th</sup>: Exodus 17:1-7  
*"Where Is My Spring Water?"*
- March 15<sup>th</sup>: Psalm 23  
*"Where Are You Lord?"*
- March 22nd: John 11:1-45  
*"A Miracle Of Life"*
- March 29<sup>th</sup>: Matthew 21:1-11  
*"The Greatest Entrance In History"*

# Squeaky's Corner

Hi Everyone!

Wow, what crazy weather we've been having lately, right? One day is super windy, the next it's calm. One day it is 50 degrees and the next day it's so hot that we are wearing shorts! (Yes, we do wear shorts. Sometimes. Well, occasionally. Anyway, let's just say that this winter has been more like spring than winter.

Sometimes, like the weather, our lives don't go as expected either. One day everything is going great and the next thing we know, we are dealing with being sick or losing a job or we have received some really bad news. Suddenly, our lives are changed, and we just get really confused about what to do about it.

And you might be thinking "What does a mouse have to worry about?" Well, we sometimes struggle to find food, especially in the wintertime. Have you ever been so hungry that it hurts? Sometimes we get into arguments with our friends over silly things and then we feel lonely. Have you ever felt lonely? And sometimes we just get depressed about many things. Have you ever felt this way?

You see, we all have things that happen to us and to those that we love that bring us down and that make us sad. However, we don't have to stay this way because we have something amazing!! And yep, you have probably guessed this is Jesus!!! You see, no matter what is happening, Jesus is there for us!! He helps us find food, he makes sure that we are not alone, and he understands what it means to be sad.

Do you call upon Jesus when your life gets out of control? If you don't you might want to really think about this because sometimes the only way through these tough times is with the help of Jesus.

My friends and I have a "Love Like Jesus" study session every week. It's not quite a Bible Study thought. It's more that we get together and ask the question: "How have you loved like Jesus this week?" Then we talk honestly about how we did this or how we maybe didn't love like Jesus when we should have. It's a great time of encouraging each other to really let the love of Jesus come through us so that others can feel it. And yes, this even includes loving the cats because Jesus loves EVERYONE!

How about you? How have you shown your love to people around you this week? I sent a letter to a friend who I haven't seen in a long time telling them how much I missed them. Then I helped carry in some left-over cheese for a neighbor so they could feed their kids, and I even tossed some squeaky toys to the neighborhood cat. It was a really great week of showing my love for everyone around me. It was a lot of hard work, but I don't think you can ever love anyone too much!

I don't have any Knock, knock jokes for you this month but I promise there will be some for Easter. Until then, remember that no matter what happens, no matter where you are, that Jesus is there to help you through any storm or with anything that brings sadness or worry to your heart. Jesus loves you and so do I!

See you around the church!

Squeaky



-Squeaky

## March Mission Focus

### United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) UMCOR Sunday-March 15

Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires and displacement. As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR allows individuals to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need.

**UMCOR SUNDAY March 15.** Gifts to the **UMCOR Sunday** special offering (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) cover UMCOR's costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project (Advance) will go toward that project, not administrative costs. Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need. If you would like to give toward this important outreach, **UMCOR Sunday offering will be taken on Sunday, March 15. There will be an envelope in your bulletin. You may give at that time, or take the envelope home and return it next week.**

When you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that 100% of your gift will be used to help the program, ministry or missionary you designate. This is possible through The Advance, an official program of The United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated giving. Each Advance project has been vetted and approved by Global Ministries and Advance staff to ensure that projects are aligned with the goals of The United Methodist Church in the local area, and report how giving is making an impact. **Your gifts to UMCOR may be made directly** online at: [advance.umcmission.org](http://advance.umcmission.org) or you may give through the church, noting on your check which area of need you wish to give to (ex US Disaster Relief or International Disaster Relief or another area of interest). We will then send the gifts on to UMCOR.

## Missions Update

**Soup Sale on Sunday! Don't forget to stop by and buy some Soup. Chicken Orzo and Chili: \$10/qt. The proceeds go to our many projects.**

**Feed My Starving Children (Slammin Famine)-** A group of 16 represented FUMC at Slammin Famine on Saturday, February 14, to pack meals for FMSC. In two hours we packed 79,704 meal which is enough to feed 272 children one meal a day for a year! Thanks to all who worked. Total for all 5 packing sessions was 357,048 meals packed.

**Genesis Project Greeley-** Thank you for your donations of bedding and towels for Genesis house, which helps single mothers with children to make a new beginning. They have all the bedding, etc. that they need for now, so we will not be collecting those items at this time

**Covenant Missionary, Jennifer Moore-** We received a newsletter with a year-end recap of Jennifer's year. Check it out on the missions bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or on the church website at [firstumcwindSOR.org](http://firstumcwindSOR.org) We have extended our Covenant Partnership with Jennifer for another year.

**Kairos Sterling-** If you are interested in attending the closing ceremony at Sterling Correctional Facility, please contact Rob Bradley as soon as possible, as the paperwork needs to be submitted soon.

**Guadalupe Community Center-** If you are interested in learning more about Guadalupe and our meal service there, please contact Cheryl Gerstner or Cathy Bell.

**The next Missions Meeting is on March 15, immediately following Worship. Our meetings are open to anyone interested in Missions.**

## Adult Ministries

We offer a variety of weekly opportunities for adults to connect, study the Word, and build community. If you'd like more information about any of these groups, feel free to contact the leaders listed below. As always, *all are welcome* to join anytime.


**Adult Sunday School:** Sunday mornings at 9am in the basement Fellowship Hall. Bruce Hyink is the group leader. You can reach him at: [bruce@hyink.org](mailto:bruce@hyink.org).

**Vera's Bible Study:** Tuesday at 12:30pm in the Upper Room. Paula Allard is the group leader, you can reach her at [paulaallard38@gmail.com](mailto:paulaallard38@gmail.com).

**Thursday Evening Bible Study:** This ladies group meets on Thursday evenings at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pat Ferrell is the group leader, you can reach her at [patferrell59@yahoo](mailto:patferrell59@yahoo).

**Prayer Group:** Wednesday afternoons at 3pm in the Prayer Room. Pat Ferrell is the group leader, you can reach her at [patferrell59@yahoo](mailto:patferrell59@yahoo).

## United Women in Faith

 United Women in Faith will be hosting meetings in the Fellowship Hall on March 11 and 25. All are welcome!

## First Kid's FUN!



Children's Ministry  
is asking for  
**Candy** donations  
for our  
**Easter Egg  
Hunt**

Please give to the office  
or to Jenni



# Stork Support

Spring is in full swing at Stork Support! We just wrapped up serving 12 families with a baby due in March and are working hard to fulfill support requests from our April and May due date families. We also opened up with monthly support of essential hygiene and infant feeding for 20 families with infants for the first year of life starting in February. It is a busy and exciting time of helping local families to bring their babies home with less stress.

Top 5 greatest needs:

1. Bottle drying racks and cleaning brushes
2. Baby monitors -- audio-only are a great
3. Size 6 baby diapers
4. Infant formula -- Enfamil Infant (yellow can) needed most
5. Volunteers! Stork Support continues to be 100% volunteer run



## Missions

### Northern Colorado Slammin Famine fun!

If you'd like to help out next year, reach out to Cathy Bell or Cheryl Gerstner.



# Announcements

*Holy Week*



3/29 Palm Sunday 9:45am  
*In Front of the church*

4/02 Maunday Thursday 6:00pm

4/03 Good Friday 6:00pm

4/05 Sunrise Service 6:15am  
*At Boardwalk Park*

4/05 Easter Service 10am  
*Easter egg hunt to follow*

MARCH 29-APRIL 5



**Reminder**

**SPRING FORWARD**

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS  
**MARCH 8TH**

# Food Pantry Needs

- |                               |                       |          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Canned Vegetables )           | Cereal                | Crackers |
| Vegetable Oil (small bottles) | Peanut Butter (16 oz) | Chili    |
| Sugar (3-5lb bags)            | Rice (1lb bags)       | Syrup    |
| Spaghetti Sauce               | Dry Beans (1lb bags)  |          |

# March Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Happy Birthday

- 3/09 Bruce Hyink
- 3/10 Lois Huckabee
- 3/10 Max Zimmerman
- 3/13 Cindy Gleason
- 3/21 Sadie Measel
- 3/22 Jo Ann Belk
- 3/23 Ruth Ann Roberts
- 3/31 Judy Harrison



## Happy Anniversary

- 3/12 Katie & Jake Turnwall



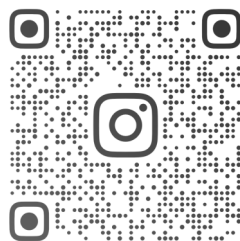
# Connect With Us

## Facebook



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## Website



FirstUMCWindsor.com

# March

First United Methodist Church of Windsor

503 Walnut St., Windsor, CO 80550

Office Hours: Tues-Fri 10AM-3PM

Telephone: (970) 686-2368

Email [firstumewindsor@gmail.com](mailto:firstumewindsor@gmail.com)

| Sunday   | Monday                         | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday                   |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|----------------------------|
| 1<br>9a Adult S.S.<br>10a Worship/<br>First Kids<br>11a Fellowship/<br>Soup sale   | 2<br>5:30p Choir<br>7p Scouts  | 3<br>12:30p Vera's<br>Bible Study<br>6:30p Troop 88                                  | 4<br>10a Stork<br>Support<br>3p Prayer Grp.<br>5:30p Trustees                                | 5<br>1p Stork Support<br>5:30p Thursday<br>Night Bible study     | 6<br>10a UWF Craft<br>Group   | 7                          |
| 8<br>9a Adult S.S.<br>10a Worship/<br>First Kids<br>11a Fellowship   | 9<br>5:30p Choir<br>7p Scouts  | 10<br>12:30p Vera's<br>Bible Study   | 11<br>10a Stork<br>Support<br>1:30p UWF<br>3p Prayer Grp.<br>5:30p Finance                   | 12<br>1p Stork Support<br>5:30p<br>Thursday Night<br>Bible study | 13<br>10a UWF Craft<br>Group  | 14                         |
| 15<br>9a Adult S.S.<br>10a Worship/<br>First Kids<br>11a Fellowship/<br>Missions Mtg   | 16<br>5:30p Choir<br>7p Scouts | 17<br>12:30p Vera's<br>Bible Study<br>3p DAR<br>6p Stepping<br>Stones Board<br>Mtg . | 18<br>10a Stork<br>Support<br>3p Prayer Grp.<br>5:30p SPRC                                   | 19<br>1p Stork Support<br>5:30p<br>Thursday Night<br>Bible study | 20<br>10a UWF Craft<br>Group  | 21                         |
| 22<br>9a Adult S.S.<br>10a Worship/<br>First Kids<br>11a Fellowship  | 23<br>5:30p Choir<br>7p Scouts | 24<br>12:30p Vera's<br>Bible Study   | 25<br>10a Stork Sup.<br>1:30p UWF<br>3p Prayer Grp.<br>5:30p Leadership<br>6:30p Pack 57     | 26<br>1p Stork Support<br>5:30p<br>Thursday Night<br>Bible study | 27<br>10a UWF Craft<br>Group  | 28<br>10a<br>Stork Support |
| 29<br>9a Adult S.S.<br>10a Worship/<br>First Kids<br>11a Fellowship<br> | 30<br>5:30p Choir<br>7p Scouts | 31<br>12:30p Vera's<br>Bible Study   | 1<br><br> | 2<br>6p Maundy<br>Thursday Service                               | 3<br>6p Good Friday<br>Service<br> | 4                          |